

Section B—Communicable Disease Surveillance

Tuberculosis Disease

Background. Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.[^] The bacteria can attack any part of the body, but usually attacks the lungs. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. TB bacteria become airborne when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected. In 2000, more than 16,000 cases of TB were reported in the United States.

[^] CDC > Division of Tuberculosis Elimination > Questions and Answers about TB. Health Topics A to Z.

Reporting. In Missouri, tuberculosis disease has been a reportable disease for over ten years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Tuberculosis Information Management System (TIMS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a classification (i.e., exposure, infection, etc.). Only confirmed cases of tuberculosis disease are presented here.

Nationally, tuberculosis disease is a reportable disease. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through TIMS. National TIMS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

